

ARTICLE 2: BASE ZONES

MESA ZONING ORDINANCE

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Chapter 4 Agricultural District

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11-4-1: Purpose

The purpose of the Agricultural (AG) District is to protect and preserve agricultural lands and related activities in their present character. The intent of this district is to protect agricultural lands from incompatible land uses and urban encroachment. This district encourages the use of land for local food production. This district may also be used as a means to limit premature development, or to assure development of property takes place when suitable infrastructure and adopted plans are in place to support development of the area in a manner consistent with the applicable [General Plan](#) designation.

11-4-2: Land Use Regulations

In [Table 11-4-2](#), the land use regulations for each Agricultural zoning district are established by letter designations as follows:

- “P” designates use classifications permitted in the [Agriculture District](#).
- “SUP” designates use classifications permitted on approval of a [Special Use Permits](#).
- “CUP” designates use classifications permitted on approval of a [Council Use Permits](#).
- “(x)” a number in parentheses refers to a limitation following the table.

Use classifications not listed are prohibited. The “[Additional Use Regulations](#)” column includes specific limitations applicable to the use classification or refers to regulations located elsewhere in this Ordinance.

Table 11-4-2: Agricultural District		
<i>Proposed Use</i>	AG	<i>Additional Use Regulations</i>
Residential Use Classifications		
Single Residence	P (2, 3)	
Day Care Group Home		
Small Day Care Group Home (up to 5)	P (2, 3)	Section 11-31-13, Day Care Group Homes
Large Day Care Group Home (6 – 10)	P (2, 3)	Section 11-31-13, Day Care Group Homes
Group Residential		
Group Home for the Handicapped	P (2, 3)	Section 11-31-14, Group Homes for the Handicapped

Table 11-4-2: Agricultural District		
Proposed Use	AG	Additional Use Regulations
Home Occupations	P/SUP	Section 11-31-33, Home Occupations
Public and Semi-Public Use Classifications		
Cemeteries	SUP	
Community Gardens	P	Section 11-31-10, Community Gardens
Cultural Institutions	P (2)	
Parks and Recreation Facilities, Public	P	
Places of Worship	P (2)	Section 11-31-22, Places of Worship
Athletic Facilities When Accessory to a Church	SUP(2)	
Day Care When Accessory to a Church	SUP(2)	
Schools, Public or Private	P (2, 3)	
Commercial Use Classifications		
Animal Sales and Services	SUP	
Kennels	SUP	
Veterinary Services	SUP	
Plant Nurseries and Garden Centers	SUP	Section 11-4-4(C)
Transportation, Communication and Utilities Use Classification		
Utilities, Major	CUP	
Utilities, Minor	P	
Agricultural and Extractive Use Classifications		
Agriculture	P/SUP(1)	
Crop and Animal Raising	P/SUP(1)	
Mining and Quarrying	SUP	
Specific Accessory Uses		
Animal Keeping	P	Sections 11-4-4(B) and 11-31-4, Animal Keeping
Accessory Dwelling Unit	P (2, 3)	Section 11-31-3, Accessory Dwelling Unit
Agriculture-based Entertainment	SUP(2)	Section 11-4-5, Agriculture-based Entertainment
Farm Stands	SUP(2)	
Home Occupations	P (2)	Section 11-31-33, Home Occupations
Medical Marijuana Caregiver or Patient Cultivation	P (2,4)	Section 11-31-34, Medical Marijuana Facilities
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The following agricultural uses are permitted by right (subject to the standards of this chapter): aviaries and apiaries; plant nurseries and greenhouses; poultry, bird, and egg farms; commercial breeding, training, and grazing of horses, cattle, sheep, goats, ostriches and other livestock. Dairies and feedlots require a Special Use Permit. Use not permitted when the property is subject to the AOA 1 overflight area, see Section 11-19-2, Runway Protection Zones and Airport Overflight Areas. Use not permitted when the property is subject to the AOA 2 overflight area, see Section 11-19-2, Runway Protection Zones and Airport Overlay Areas. Required to be minimum distance of 25-miles from a registered medical marijuana dispensary 		

11-4-3: Development Standards[Return to Page 1](#)

Table 11-4-3 prescribes the Development Standards for the [AG](#) district.

Table 11-4-3: Development Standards – Agricultural District	
<i>Standard</i>	AG
Lot and Density Standards	
Minimum Lot Area	10 acres
Minimum Lot Width (ft)	400
Maximum Density (dwelling units/acre)	0.1
Building Form and Location	
Maximum Height (ft)	30
Maximum Number of Stories	2
Minimum Yards (ft)	
Front	30
Interior Side: Minimum each side	60
Interior Side: Minimum aggregate of 2 sides	120
Street Side	30
Rear	60
Maximum Building Coverage	15%
Supplemental Standards	
Accessory Buildings (Barns, Sheds, Ramadas)	Section 11-30-17: Detached Accessory Buildings
Fences and Walls	Sections 11-4-4(A) , 11-5-7 (D) , and 11-30-4 , Fences and Freestanding Walls
Landscaping	Chapter 33, Landscaping
Lot Splits and Subdivisions	Section 11-30-6, Lots and Subdivisions ; and Title 9, Chapter 6, Subdivision Regulations
Off-Street Parking and Loading	Chapter 32, On-Site Parking, Loading, and Circulation
Projections above Height Limits	Section 11-30-3, Exceptions to Height Limits
Projections into Required Yards	Section 11-4-4(D) Building Projections into Required Yards
Screening	Section 11-30-9, Screening
Solar Panels	Section 11-30-15, Solar Panels and Other Energy Production Facilities
Visibility at Intersections	Section 11-30-14, Visibility at Intersections

11-4-4: Supplemental Regulations**A. Fences and Freestanding Walls.**

1. “Corral fences” for the keeping of livestock are permitted consistent with the standards provided in [Section 11-5-7\(E\)\(1\)](#), Corral Fences.

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2. In addition, all fences, freestanding walls, and corral fences shall meet the standards of [Section 11-30-4](#), Fences and Freestanding Walls and [Section 11-30-14](#), Visibility of Intersections.
- B. **Animal Keeping.** Animal-keeping is subject to the following standards in the AG District:
1. ***Aviaries and Apiaries.***
 - a. Buildings or hives for apiaries may not be closer than 75 feet to any neighboring residence.
 - b. Pens and structures for aviaries may not be closer than 40 feet to any neighboring residence.
 2. ***Poultry, Bird, and Egg Farms.*** Poultry, bird, and egg farms are subject to the following standards:
 - a. Pens, buildings, and enclosures other than open pasture may not be located closer than 200 feet to any residential, commercial, or employment district.
 3. ***Livestock.*** Commercial breeding, raising, training, and grazing of horses, cattle, sheep, goats, ostriches, and other livestock is subject to the following standards:
 - a. Sites must be at least 10 acres in area.
 - b. Notwithstanding any other provision of this [Ordinance](#), the number of livestock shall be limited to no more than the maximum number permitted by [Title 8, Chapter 6, Article 4\(IV\)](#) of the [Mesa City Code](#), unless a Special Use Permit is approved by the [Zoning Administrator](#) acting as a [Hearing Officer](#), or by the [Board of Adjustment](#).
 - c. Pens, corrals, and similar structures may not be closer than 40 feet to any neighboring residence.
 - d. Barns, stables and similar buildings used to house animals, not including shade structures open at minimum on 3 sides, may not be closer than 75 feet to any neighboring residence.
 4. With regard to items 1 through 3 of this sub-section B, in the event that an animal pen, corral or other structure is located outside of the required separation distance when constructed, and subsequent construction is placed closer than the required separation specified, the item constructed first does not have to move its location unless it is expanded, enlarged, or moved.
- C. **Plant Nurseries and Garden Centers.** Plant Nurseries and Garden Centers oriented principally towards retail trade require approval of a [Special Use Permit](#) and are subject to the following standards:

1. With or without a garden center, plant nurseries that cater principally towards retail trade shall be located on sites with direct frontage on a street designated by the [Mesa General Plan](#) as an arterial or as a mid-section collector.
2. Total floor area for all buildings, except greenhouses used to raise or display plants, shall not exceed 10,000 sq ft.
3. Items displayed outdoors are limited to plants, soils, gravel, soil amendments and fertilizer.
4. Development standards shall comply with requirements of the GC-A district, see [Table 11-6-3 B](#).

D. Building Projections into Required Yards. Building projections may extend into required yards, subject to the following standards:

1. No projection may extend closer than 2 feet into a public utility easement.
2. Awnings, eaves, overhangs, or basement window wells may encroach up to 3 feet into any required yard.
3. Vestibules, bay windows, nooks, chimneys, or similar wall projections with or without footings may encroach not more than 3 feet into any required front or rear yard and not more than 2 feet into any required side yard, provided the aggregate width of all such projections adjacent to any yard does not exceed 1/3 of the length of the building wall.
4. Staircases may encroach:
 - a. Up to 3 feet into any required front yard,
 - b. Up to 10 feet into any required rear yard; and
 - c. Up to 2 feet into any side.
5. Attached open porches, open patios, open carports or open balconies may encroach up to 10 feet into a required rear yard. Such open structures may include window screens, knee walls, and other partial enclosures as specified in the [Building Code](#) for patio covers.

11-4-5: Agriculture-based Entertainment

Agriculture-based entertainment and educational related activities, such as corn mazes, facility tours, petting zoos and farm animal exhibits, are permitted as an accessory use in the AG district subject to review and approval of a [Special Use Permits](#) in accordance with [Chapter 70, Conditional Use Permits](#). Evaluation of the Special Use Permit shall be based on a review of the following items to assure the entertainment and educational related activities remain compatible with and not detrimental to surrounding land uses:

- A. **Site Plan.** A finding that an acceptable site plan has been submitted for review and consideration. Such site plan shall adequately address issues relating to vehicle access, traffic circulation, and pedestrian safety.
- B. **Parking.** Parking, which shall be dustproof, and provided at a minimum ratio of 1 space per 1000 square feet of designated entertainment area.
- C. **Accessory Use.** The entertainment and educational activities shall remain as an accessory activity, and the primary uses for the site shall remain agricultural related activities as permitted under [Section 11-4-2](#).
- D. **Applicable Policies.** The use is found to be in compliance with the [General Plan](#), and with applicable [Sub Area Plans](#), Neighborhood Plans and other recognized development plans or policies, and will be compatible with surrounding uses; and
- E. **Operational Plan.** A finding that an acceptable operational plan in narrative form has been submitted for review and consideration, which includes, but is not limited to, descriptions of acceptable measures to ensure ongoing compatibility with adjacent uses. Such policies shall include, but are not limited to measures that control: dust, vectors, litter, noise and light.. The [Operational Plan](#) shall also include the name and telephone number of the manager or person responsible for the operation of the facility; and complaint response procedures, including investigation, remedial action, and follow-up.

11-4-6: Review of Plans

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[Administrative Use Permits](#), [Special Use Permits](#), and [Council Use Permits](#) shall follow the standards established in [Chapter 70](#) of this Ordinance. All other uses and development shall comply with the review procedures, standards and criteria established in Article

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